1: Ingrams G-5 (1934-35)1936 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

at intervals of some 20 feet a series of shafts similar to those described in connection with the Mukalla water-supply. Hunnat al Harth is temporarily not giving water, as the level has fallen below the channel. At Al Quf itself there are a number of wells, and round each are nursery beds where the tobacco seedlings are grown. The beds are divided into patches three or four feet square and the seed close sown, so close that even where seed does not germinate the workers cut small scratches in the ground and plant fresh seed. When the seedlings are grown to a height of about three or four inches they are taken from Al Quf to Al Harth, about a mile and a-half away, and planted out in rows with intervals of a foot, or three-quarters of a *dhirra*, in beds of a size dependent on the amount of water. A bed is called *mutr*, plural *mutira*, and each is surrounded by a ridge to keep in the irrigation water. In due course the crop is gathered and dried. Drying barns are unknown.

The crop[1] is financed by the merchants who advance the money to the cultivators and are paid back either monthly or after the crop. In the case of the Government lands at Gheil some cultivators pay their rent in advance and some after the crop. The rent of the whole area of the Sultan's land at Gheil is assessed before each season and the figure required communicated to his representative there. This official then rents out the land at a figure per acre based on the total sum required.

The total annual value of the crop is now estimated at five lakhs of which the Sultan receives Rs.120,000 in duty and ground rent. Production costs are estimated at three lakhs, so that the profit to the cultivators is Rs.80,000. In order to foster the local consumption of tobacco, there is a monopoly of imported cigarettes and pipe tobacco.

Of tobacco, Mr. H. M. Heald in his report of the Agricultural Mission to Mukalla says that in the Meifa valley " the cultivation of the tobacco received more attention than any other crop. . . . The seed was sown in a small plot of land which, in the large villages, had been heavily manured with sheep dung mixed with fine earth. [241] When 40 days old the plants were transplanted into the small beds at distances of one foot apart, and again manured with fish; irrigation varied in the villages but generally every seven days.

" Topping of the terminal buds took place after all the leaves had been formed and the plants were ripe for cutting in four or five months, according to district and season. The plants were dried on the ground first singly and then in small bundles, and afterwards hung up in rows. After drying again in bundles, they were covered with sacks to promote fermentation, and then the plants were taken into the houses for further drying in the dark, and ready for transporting to the coast in a week or so. Practically no grading was done . . . and I am sure " he writes, " better prices would be obtained if more attention were paid to selection."

[1] [Tobacco -- Analyst]